CLAIMS

1. A protective layer transfer sheet comprising: a substrate sheet; a heat-resistant slip layer provided on one side of the substrate sheet; and a thermally transferable protective layer releasably provided on at least a part of the surface of the substrate sheet remote from the heat-resistant slip layer, the coefficient of friction between the surface of the protective layer and the surface of the image-receiving sheet before thermal transfer being 0.05 to 0.5 in terms of μ_0 (coefficient of static friction) and μ (coefficient of dynamic friction) with the value of μ_0/μ being 1.0 to 1.5.

2. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferable protective layer contains microsilica.

3. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferable protective layer comprises a main protective layer and an adhesive layer provided in that order from the substrate sheet side, and the adhesive layer contains microsilica.

4. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the content of the microsilica is 0.1 to 10%, more preferably 3 to 5%, based on the resin solid matter in the layer containing the microsilica.

5. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the particle diameter of the microsilica is 1 to 10 μm in terms of the average diameter of secondary particles as measured by a Coulter counter method.

4 6. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferable protective layer contains at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyester resins, polycarbonate resins, acrylic resins, ultraviolet-absorbing resins, and epoxy resins, and microsilica.

5 7. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferable protective layer comprises a release layer, a main protective layer, and an adhesive layer provided in that order from the substrate sheet side, the release

layer contains an acrylic resin, and the adhesive layer contains at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyester resins, polycarbonate resins, butyral resins, acrylic resins, ultraviolet-absorbing resins, and epoxy resins, and microsilica.

8. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the release layer is non-transferable, and, upon thermal transfer, the release layer stays on the substrate sheet while the protective layer is separable from the substrate sheet.

9. The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein, upon thermal transfer, the thermally transferable protective layer is separable directly from the substrate sheet.